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## NOTES.

“*Les Lois sociologiques*”\* is not a treatise on sociology proper, but an inquiry into its nature and an attempt to vindicate its character as an exact science. This, of course, involves a denial of the validity of metaphysics, and an attempt to explain social phenomena by purely physical causes. Comte’s familiar hierarchy of the sciences is examined, adopted in the main and supplemented by a science of which Comte was necessarily ignorant. The physical sciences, commonly so called, lead to physiology, physiological psychology and sociology, each more complicated but not less physical or capable of exact statement than those at the beginning of the list. The most of the book is filled with examples of social phenomena for which the author thinks he sees a physical cause. These examples differ much in significance and conclusiveness. They generally illustrate, frequently support, but never prove the author’s theory. Sometimes their relevancy is not apparent, being little more than metaphorical applications of the laws of physics to social phenomena. That the book makes a contribution to the discussion, begun by Spencer and Ward as to the nature of social laws must be admitted, but our inability as yet to separate combined forces, to measure and quantitatively state their results makes conclusive proof impossible, and does not justify the dogmatism with which our author, in common with others who hold his view, occasionally decries opposed theories or states conclusions which should at best be held as tentative. This defect is not marked, however, and while the book is a minor contribution, it has real excellence.

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SELDOM is as much scientific good sense crowded into narrow space as is found in a recent work on “Domestic Economy.”† It contains, first, a terse statement of the elements of physiology; second, a clear analysis of the hygienic and other properties of all the commoner kinds of food; and, finally, a similar statement regarding clothing materials and their use. It contains, perhaps, nothing very new or startling, but it is an eminently practical contribution to the study of this most important and most neglected department of our economic life. Indeed, so neglected is it that the mention of a work on domestic economy or the economic organization of the household will doubtless strike many persons as out of place in an economic journal. A work on the

\**Les Lois sociologiques*. Par GUILLAUME DE GREEF. Pp., 181. Paris: Félix Alcan.

†*Domestic Economy*. By F. T. PAUL. Pp., 218. London: Longmans, Green & Co.

development of manufacturing industries would doubtless be quite in place. The popular perspective in all its distortion thus becomes too often the seemingly normal perspective of science. But we shall never have a truly profitable national industrial organization till we have a successful utilization of goods in the home. That the general use of this little book would greatly contribute to this end can hardly be doubted. Unfortunately, the author's refusal absolutely to declare injurious the use of alcoholic beverages in any quantity, and under all circumstances (though the danger of their use is impartially and adequately stated), and his eminently just condemnation of the excessive use of tea, will arouse much well meant and, perhaps, profitable prejudice. Purely scientific statements are not ready and efficient tools for the reformer, and a book to be successful, even to be useful, must be a delicate compromise between regnant prejudice and scientific verity. The criticism herein implied is one proof of the inherent excellence of the book.

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FROM the Historical Seminary of Brown University comes an interesting account of "The Development of the Nominating Convention in Rhode Island."\* The author, Mr. Neil Andrews, introduces his paper with a brief general sketch of the development of this important part of our American political system. He regards its growth in Rhode Island as especially interesting, because there it was earliest developed, and its different stages can be traced most easily. As early as 1790 is found the record of a legislative caucus, a convention of the Federalist members of the legislature for the purpose of nominating general officers. In the year 1810 the mixed legislative caucus was introduced, in which to the party conventions of members of the legislature there were admitted delegates from towns which were not represented in the legislature by members of the party in question. In 1824, the year when "the congressional caucus was ejected from the American political system," the mixed legislative caucus was in Rhode Island replaced by the pure nominating convention, to which each town chose delegates unless it authorized its representatives to serve in that capacity. Mr. Andrews has handled with no little skill his "opaque materials," gathered mainly from contemporary newspapers.

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THROUGH the recent work of several investigators, it is at last becoming possible to study slavery without passion or prejudice, but simply as an institution, and to determine the nature and extent of

\* *The Development of the Nominating Convention in Rhode Island.* By NEIL ANDREWS, A. B. Pp. 14. Providence, R. I., 1894.

the influence which it has exerted on the social and economic development of the various sections of the country. The third of a valuable series of monographs on this subject, published in the Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and Political Science, is contributed by Dr. Bernard C. Steiner, who writes the history of slavery in Connecticut.\* During the colonial period, 1636 to 1774, Dr. Steiner finds that the people generally acquiesced in the existence of slavery, and that the slave code was by no means mild. Connecticut slavery began with Indian captives of war. Just when African slavery was introduced is uncertain; the Connecticut black code began in 1690 with a fugitive slave law. For the next half-century the laws repressing slaves grew harsher, but during the stormy years preceding the Revolution slavery received but little attention. In 1774 a mixture of motives led to the passage of an act prohibiting the importation of slaves into the colony. During this early period the slaves for the most part were treated with considerable indulgence; in the patriarchal family the condition of the slave differed but little from that of the apprentice, and slaves were not infrequently admitted into the local churches as fellow-members with their masters. Not later than 1774 agitation in favor of emancipation became common; during the Revolution slaves often received their freedom for service in the Continental army. In 1784 it was enacted that no negro or mulatto born after March 1, 1784, should be held as a slave after reaching the age of twenty-five; the holding of slaves was not absolutely prohibited until 1848. Until about 1830 emancipation was gradual, and the condition of the slaves was generally ameliorated; but after the rise of the Abolitionists the feeling against slavery became more bitter until it culminated in the resistance to the Fugitive Slave Act. A valuable feature of this monograph is its discussion of the important cases adjudicated before the higher courts with reference to slavery, the cases of Miss Prudence Crandall and her school, and that of the negroes on the Amistad being the most noteworthy. In addition to the full references given in the foot-notes, the appendix contains an extensive bibliography of the subject, and an interesting table showing the changes in the numbers of Connecticut slaves and free negroes from 1680 to 1890.

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"THE History of Education in Delaware,"† a monograph written by Lyman P. Powell and issued by the Bureau of Education, gives

\* *History of Slavery in Connecticut.* By BERNARD C. STEINER, Ph. D. Pp. 84. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1893.

† *The History of Education in Delaware.* By LYMAN P. POWELL, A. B. Pp. 186. Washington: United States Bureau of Education, 1893.

evidence of painstaking care, original research, and rare discrimination. In the opening chapters on colonial life in Delaware the author treats of education among the Swedes, the Dutch, and the English, and shows how these people made their schools reflect their peculiar social and religious ideas. In these no less than in subsequent chapters, after discussing private education in the towns, the author invites attention to Delaware's most prominent academies, viz.: Newark Academy and the Wilmington Conference Academy. Only a real insight into the essentials of a first-rate educational institution could have inspired the writing of these chapters. An illustration of this insight may be found in a single quotation: "Every boarding-school is a microcosm of the political and economic history of society. The child in its development to adult life represents the evolution of a primitive savage into a civilized being. . . . Scarcely a school exists in which one may not find the various types of institutional government. . . . The wise schoolmaster, recognizing this truth, strives to inspire his school to achieve the highest form of self-government. . . . Ideal government is attained only by that school which attains ideal democracy." The best work is done in the chapter which outlines clearly and succinctly the history of public education in the State. In rapid succession the free-school law of 1829, educational conventions, old-time schools, the law of 1875, present status of public schools, the school fund, teachers' institutes, and the State Teachers' Association, are ably presented. After paying his compliments to the schools of Wilmington, Mr. Powell closes with an excellent bibliography. As this monograph is the first history of the education of Delaware, it was written entirely from original sources. Mr. Powell evidently found it a labor of love. The work should be widely read and should find a place in the library of every student of educational history.

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## RECENT FRENCH PUBLICATIONS.

THE LAST VOLUME of the *Petite bibliothèque française* gives a collection of extracts from Karl Marx's "Capital" made by his son-in-law, Mr. Lafargue. Professor Vilfredo Pareto, the successor of Professor Walras at the University of Lausanne, has written an interesting introduction on Marx and his work. ("Karl Marx: *Le Capital*," extraits faits par son gendre M. Paul Lafargue, avec une introduction par M. Vilfredo Pareto. Paris: Guillaumin, 1893).

"*Systèmes généraux d'impôts.*" By Professor René Stourm. Pp. 415. Paris: Guillaumin, 1893. This is the title of a very important elementary treatise on taxation. It embodies much of the material that the professor presents in so clear and satisfactory a way to his pupils at the

école libre des sciences politiques in his course on "Systèmes généraux d'impôts," and also some of the same material to be found in his article entitled "Impôt" in M. Léon Say's new French "Dictionary of Political Economy." The book is divided into an introduction and three parts, which treat respectively of the history of writings on taxation, definition, and incidence of taxation; Utopian systems, existing systems, and systems capable of application; and the great fiscal divisions of existing systems.

Contemporary socialistic literature has received a contribution in a brochure by Louis Strauss, entitled "*L'extension universitaire de Bruxelles—Les doctrines sociales au xix<sup>e</sup> siècle. Critique du cours de M. van der Velde.*" (Antwerp: Jos. Themis, 1893). This is a criticism of a University Extension course given by M. van der Velde in which he discussed social doctrines under such headings as "Political Economy," "Christian Socialism," "Historical School," "Collectivism," "Anarchism." Mr. Strauss discusses from the liberalist point of view the utterances of Professor van der Velde, which are socialistic in their tendency.

"*Essais et études*," par Émile de Laveleye. (Pp. 412. Première Série, 1861-1875. Paris et Gand, 1894). This collection and reprint of essays already published in various reviews and journals will be warmly appreciated by the numerous friends of Professor de Laveleye in all countries. Changed methods in scientific study have almost done away with the brilliant essayist of a half century ago who was able to range over a wide field of subjects, treating each with a measure of completeness and a fineness of finish that varied with the essayist's general mental vigor rather than with his special knowledge. Professor de Laveleye may be considered as a connecting link between the two régimes. He was a trained and able economist, and yet it was in his brilliant contributions to reviews and magazines that he was best known. Although he left many notes that he had been collecting for a number of years previous to his death, with the intention of writing a large work on political economy, his literary executors have decided that these are not in shape worthy of publication, and have undertaken to place in convenient and permanent form some of his essays already published in widely separated journals. The first volume contains essays arranged chronologically and covering the period 1861-1875. A list of their titles will show at once the breadth of subject-matter covered, and the names of the reviews or magazines where they were originally published may enable the reader of this notice to find those that interest him even without access to the volume containing the collection. Some of the essays form important contributions to the subject treated, and all of them are excellent reading. Professor de Laveleye

already made two similar collections during his lifetime. One published in 1863 entitled, "*Questions contemporaines*" (essays covering period 1856-60), and the second published in 1869 entitled "*Études et essais*." Had he personally superintended the publication of this volume he would have doubtless made some changes in the text of the articles as originally published, but his editors have wisely decided to reprint without any alterations. They also promise us one or two forthcoming volumes which are to contain his principal essays from 1875 until the present day. The subjects of the essays in the present volume are:

1. "Le dictionnaire rationnel de de Potter." (*Revue trimestrielle de Bruxelles*, October 1861.)
2. "Le mouvement littéraire en France depuis 1830." (*Revue trimestrielle de Bruxelles*, January, 1862.)
3. "Les Beaux-arts à l'exposition universelle de Paris en 1867." (*Rapport du Jury Belge*.)
4. "La liberté de l'enseignement supérieur en Belgique." (*Revue des Deux Mondes*, April 15, 1870.)
5. "De l'avenir de la France." (*Fortnightly Review*, 1870 and *Revue de Belgique*, January 15, 1871.)
6. "Encore la question flamaude." (*Revue de Belgique*, March 15, 1871.)
7. "Le régime parlementaire et l'absence des partis en Italie." (*Revue des Deux Mondes*, May 1, 1871.)
8. "La nouvelle politique russe." (*Revue des Deux Mondes*, November 15, 1871.)
9. "La revanche de la France." (*Revue de Belgique*, January 15, 1872.)
10. "La crise politique de 1871 en Belgique." (*Revue des Deux Mondes*, January 15, 1872.)
11. "Le parti clérical en Belgique." (*Fortnightly Review*, November 1, 1872.)
12. "La crise de 1873 en France." (*L'Indépendance belge*, November 3-6, 1873.)
13. "Une leçon de droit public à l'université de Louvain." (*Revue de Belgique*, January 15, 1874.)
14. "Les progrès de l'instruction en Russie." (*Revue des Deux Mondes*, April 15, 1874.)
15. "La réorganisation de l'enseignement du dessus en Belgique." (*L'Indépendance belge*, May 30, 1874.)
16. "Le protestantisme et le catholicisme, dans leur rapports avec la liberté et la prospérité des peuples. Étude d'économie sociale." (*Revue de Belgique*, January 15, 1875.)

The works on statistics, which have recently been published in French, include the following :

“*Annuaire de l'économie politique et de la statistique*,” par Maurice Block (1894. Paris : Guillaumin. Pp. 1200). This publication celebrates its fiftieth year with this number, and gives in concise form one of the best collections of statistical material published in the French language.

“*Statistique des chemins de fer français*.” première partie.

“*France, intérêt général. Documents au 31 décembre, 1891.*” (1893. Imprimerie nationale.)

“*Texte des délibérations de la commission en 1892.*” Bulletin de l’Institut International de Statistique, 1893, premier volume; (1893, Rome). This bulletin contains papers by Halley on “Morbidité” and by Scheff on “les charges de la propriété foncière en Autriche.”

Other important works of a general nature are :

“*L’impôt des tabacs et les différents systèmes de monopoles.*” (Imprimerie Chaix.) Contains much information on the tobacco monopolies in various European countries.

“*Triantaphyllides : Une banque pour sauver les grecs.*” (Grande Librairie, Paris, 1893.) This is a pamphlet discussing the financial and economic situation in Greece.

“*A propos des tarifs de douane, par le duc de Noailles.*” (Paris, Dentu Librairie.)

“*La France et les États-Unis.*” A publication of the Comité pour l’abolition du bill MacKinley (Paris), containing two addresses by M. de Montgolfier and M. Léon Chotteaum.

“*Le régime des boissons,*” par M. Gabriel Desbats. (Paris : Larose, 1894.) A discussion of actual legislation on liquor traffic from a legal point of view.

“*Voyage en Orient de Son Altesse Impériale le Czarewitch,*” par le prince Onkhmontof, traduit du russe par M. Louis Léger, avec préface de M. Anatole Leroy-Beaulieu (Paris, Delagrave). This French translation of the journal of the Russian Crown Prince on his voyage in the East contains many curious comments on the economic condition of the countries visited, especially India.